

AMERICAN LEAGUE'S "DARK HORSES" BATTLE IN MOST IMPORTANT SERIES OF CAMPAIGN

CLEVELAND-ST. LOUIS SERIES MOST IMPORTANT OF SEASON IN EITHER MAJOR LEAGUE

Both Teams Are "Dark Horses," Who Are Being Underrated by Rivals, and Winner Is Certain to Be Contender for Flag

THE most important series of the season in either major league starts today, when Cleveland and St. Louis, of the American League, meet in the latter city. A great deal of fuss is being made about the Red Sox and White Sox, and columns have been used to compare the two teams which eventually must battle for the American League. At least that is the way the critics do it, but we have an idea that the decisive winner of the series between the Indians and Browns, if there is a decisive victory, will bear watching more than either the Red Sox or White Sox.

No one took the Browns' apart seriously until Jones's team started a second winning streak immediately after the Red Sox left St. Louis. The ability of the Browns to take the series from the world's champions and then wade through Washington convinced the fans that the first winning streak was due to the furious pace set by Jones's team and not to the crippled condition of the Yankees and the weakness of the Athletics. The fans and rival players now admit that the Browns are dangerous, but they seem to think that Jones is too far back to overhaul the leaders.

Everybody seems to overlook the Indians, and perhaps we have underrated them, but if we were managing an American League team our wish at this time would be for several defeats at the hands of the Browns, or any other team, regardless of its position in the race. The critics admit that Cleveland "has a chance," but contend that the Indians are not strong enough in pitching to defeat the Red Sox.

On paper the Indians have not a staff strong enough to compete with the Red Sox, but any team that can hang within a game of the leaders with a star of Morton's caliber out of the game, and can do this with a pitching staff composed entirely of minor leaguers, is one which will bear watching. Either the Indians outclass the field as a well-balanced team or the minor league pitching staff is very underrated. What other American League team could do so well with the same pitching?

Winning With Minor League Pitching

FOR two months Fohl has depended upon Covaleskie, Klepfer, Bagby, Beebe and Gould, five hurlers who were in the minor league ranks last year. That they are better than the critics believe is a certainty, unless the Indians cracked the Browns weaker offensively than we have been led to believe, as the runs tallied against the Cleveland defense have been few and far between.

Many managers have been hailed as wizards because of the way they handle pitchers, but if any of them surges Lee Fohl it cannot be proved by results. The reader might recall that earlier in the season we stated that if the Indians cracked it would not be the fault of the pitching. This accident to Morton threatened to wreck the Cleveland staff, but Fohl's masterful coaching and handling of unknown recruits carried the team over the rough spots, and the Indians are now ready for the final spurt.

It is up to the Browns to stop the Indians and vice versa. The managers of other pennant-contending teams hardly know which team they wish to win the series between the Indians and Browns. They figure that the Browns must be stopped, but also fear that Cleveland will be mighty hard to displace once it gets into first place now that the team is intact and Morton is back in form.

The fact that Jones has three great southpaws in wonderful shape makes the Browns a favorite in the present series, as left-handers bother Speaker and Graney, who have been Cleveland's offensive mainstays. Plank, Wellman and Koob have been winning steadily, and the Browns have had few runs and hits since the Browns struck their stride. It is likely that Jones will depend entirely upon southpaws in the series, as Hamilton, the fourth left-handed star of Jones's staff, also is in splendid form. Any way one looks at it, the series is the most important so far this season, but the "crucial-series" expression will be worked to death from now on until the curtain drops.

Phils May Gain Within a Week

TOMORROW the Dodgers and Braves will clash in the first contest of a four-game series, the result of which will have an important bearing on the final outcome of the National League race. It is up to Stallings's team to stop the Dodgers. If the Braves cannot turn the trick it will look very much as if Brooklyn is not going to be pulled out of first place, barring accidents.

Stallings has Dick Rudolph primed for this series, and it is said that he plans to work his little wonder on Saturday and Monday, and also will use him for relief work on Tuesday, if necessary. Rudolph, like the Bender of old, is a marvel in an important series, and Stallings is staking everything on his ability to stop the Dodgers. The Boston leader recently declared that it was useless to hope for the western teams to stop the Dodgers, and that he was going to point his team for the coming series as though it was for the championship of the world. It remains to be seen whether he is successful.

If Boston takes three out of four from the Dodgers, and the Phils can do as well or better with the Giants, the National League race will be tightened up, with the final outcome depending entirely upon the ability of the star hurlers of the three teams to stand the grind. Alexander and Rudolph have gone through this stage and finished strong, whereas Pfeffer cracked in 1915 and may do so again. If he does, Brooklyn will not hold its lead.

It is an excellent opportunity for the Phils, but the champions will have a hard battle on their hands with the Giants, judging by the way McGraw's team has been playing. Moran's pitching staff is now in splendid shape, however, and if the rest of the men can hold up their end as well as they have in the last two weeks, the series with the Giants should be won.

Local Clubs Exercise Options

THE official list of players of National and American League clubs subject to recall under the optional agreement has been published and shows that the Athletics have ten players out who are still the property of the club, while the Phils have six. Manager Moran has decided to exercise his option on the six players, who are Baumgartner, Tincup, Rhodes, Welser, Fish and Fortune, while it is likely that Mack will recall only three.

Mack has Crowell, Malone, Steilbauer, Thompson, Bressler and Healey out under an agreement which calls for them to be returned to the Athletics unless they are drafted. In other words, Mack did not think that he would have much use for them and would willingly give some other club a chance to take up their contracts. All of these players hold contracts which carry over another year. Since making this agreement Mack has decided that he can use Crowell, who has been pitching fine ball in Baltimore, and the Brunonian will be given a chance to come back.

Mack has four recruits out under optional agreement, two of whom surely will be recalled. The four are Anker, who was sent to Asheville; Yeabley, the Atlantic Refining outfielder at Raleigh; Crews, of Greensboro, and Anderson, of Charlotte. Crews and Anderson are showing wonderful minor league form and will report to the Mackmen in the early part of September.

Mayer's Great Pitching Encourages Phils

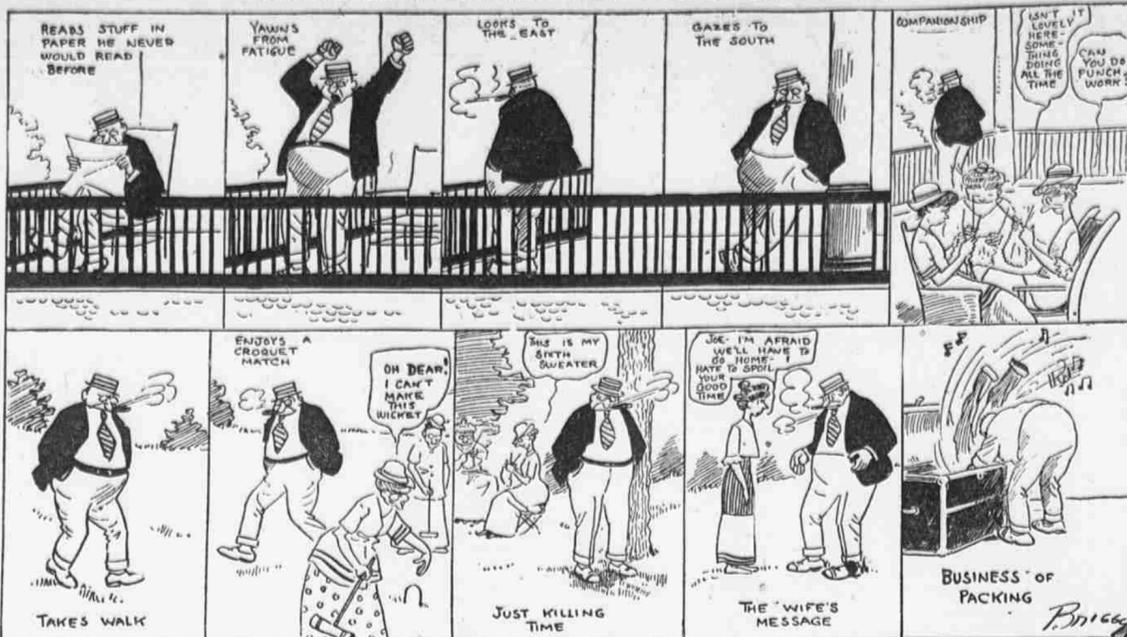
MAYER'S great pitching and the breaks of the game enabled the Phils to make it three out of four from the Reds, which is as much as anybody could ask. Mayer was really outpitched by Fred Toney, so far as his was concerned, but as the side-arm artist never allowed the Reds to get in position to score his victory was deserved. It was particularly pleasing after the poor form Mayer has shown throughout the season.

Mayer was rated as one of the best pitchers in the National League last season, and his work was largely responsible for the pennant winning by the Phils, but he was a bitter disappointment this season. It is possible that the victory will start Mayer on a winning streak. If he can show the same form he displayed in the early part of the 1915 race for the rest of the season, the five-game lead of the Dodgers will not seem so large. With Mayer right, the Phils would have an ideal pitching staff for a grueling finish.

Manager Fohl's ability to uncover unknown pitchers who are able to baffle American League batsmen was demonstrated again yesterday, when Otis Lambeth had the Yankees completely at his mercy and won a pitching duel from Russell. Lambeth was purchased three weeks ago from the Topeka club of the Western League, and Fohl predicted two weeks ago that he would be pitching regularly within a short time. Fohl can tell a pitcher a mile away.

Now that the articles have been signed for the Kilbane-Chaney fight, it looks as if the battle might take place, but there are some people who will not be convinced until the men have entered the ring. The wrangling between the managers of the two boxers and the club staging the bout has accomplished its point. It is one of the best press-agented bouts in years.

MOVIE OF A BUSINESS MAN ENJOYING A REST



DATE FOR SWEDISH MEET CHANGED TO SUIT AMERICANS

Ted Meredith and Two Others Will Compete Abroad in October

By TED MEREDITH

At the invitation of the Swedish Athletic Committee to Frederick W. Rubien, secretary and treasurer of the A. A. U. of the United States, to send myself and two other American track men over to compete in the Swedish national championships, Mr. Rubien immediately got in touch with the men whom he thought would be able to take the trip, and tried to get a three-man team which could measure up as a trio that would cover the program of events. That is, he wanted men who could compete in two or three events.

Make-up Not Decided

The make-up of the team has not yet been decided, but I have telegraphed Mr. Rubien that I could go under any arrangement which would make the other two men probably be Joe Loomis, of Chicago, and a distance runner. I do not know who the distance man will be, but I imagine he will be a Westerner, and that means Jole Ray to me. Ray can run a mile and two-mile and seems to be the best man out of college at these distances.

Swedish Athletes a Mystery

I do not know how good the Swedish athletes are. We have not seen any of their men since the games in Stockholm, but I think we shall find them a good bunch. Ernie Herberg, the Swedish trainer, is a good man in the track game, and it would not surprise me to find the hardest kind of competition. They were a fine lot of athletes in 1912 and gave the American team a hard battle. At this time they were just starting to get on to the American way as were taught them by Herberg, so after four years they should be much improved.

We will be gone four weeks at the very least, and even then will only be in Sweden for ten days. The championships will be held about October 15, and after that I imagine the Swedish authorities will plan a meet for us in other cities, the championships being in Stockholm. I am very anxious to see Stockholm again and see what it looks like when not on dress parade, as it was in 1912 during the Olympic games.

I have not kept in touch with the performances made by the Swedes in their championship meets in the last few years, so do not know just who they have to put against us, but we will not go there feeling that we will have no competition. On the other hand, we will be fully prepared to do our very best. The Nationals will find us all up in our best condition and not needing a rest. This will be furnished by the sea trip, which will be ten days.

The exercise which we will be able to get on the ship will be enough to keep our weight down and when we land we will have two or three days to put on our finishing touches. This is the best kind of rest, too. I find, although you are very liable to put on too much weight. This would be the danger for us, especially after working so hard all summer in the preparatory meets for the championships.

SPEAKER MENACE NOW PLACES TY COBB IN PERIL OF LOSING OUT IN LEAGUE BATTING RACE

Texan Has Big Lead and Georgian Must Show Wonderful Form to Top Batters for Tenth Consecutive Time

By GRANTLAND RICE

WE COME once more to the case of Ty Cobb, or Tris, or Ty, as you may care to put it.

For August is waning and the pungent odor of burning leaves is only a drift or two ahead when the full count will be in, and when, for the first time in 10 years, Cobb looks to be in danger of running down with the pack.

Ten Years Ago

Cobb had his soul set on leading the league 10 years in succession when the 1916 campaign opened. He began his first great drive in 1907, with a mark of .350, and never has been headed since at the finish.

He has had his share of close calls, for in 1910 he beat Lajoie by only a single point and in 1911 he had to beat a mark of .408 to finish first.

But close calls are soon forgotten, and for nine years Cobb not only has led his league, but his margin above the next regular has been, on an average, at least 20 points.

In the last four years, for example, Cobb has averaged 23 points a season beyond Jackson and Collins, who have been in second place.

The New Danger

The new danger comes from Speaker. Speaker's batting average has given Ty a run for his money. Speaker has played far greater ball for Cleveland than he ever played for Boston, and this campaign so far has been easily the banner season of his fine career. Whether he will slip as Cobb shoots forward, just as Jackson slipped and Ty slipped forward in 1913, when Greenville Jay had a big lead, is something for destiny to grapple with, not the dope of the day.

Past Years

It has been seven years now since Cobb dropped below .368, and in five of the seven years he has been above .375. On the other side, Speaker has batted over .340 only twice in the last seven years; in 1914 he was .330, and in 1915 he was .320. Speaker has played far greater ball for Cleveland than he ever played for Boston, and this campaign so far has been easily the banner season of his fine career.

Strawbridge and Clothier vs. Chinese

The Chinese team of the University of Hawaii will be the attraction at the Strawbridge & Clothier Field, third and Walnut streets, tomorrow afternoon. The Chinese are playing a great game at present, having defeated Camden, Roxborough, Millville, E. G. Wood and Woodbury during the last week. Also will be the box for Chinese and Caden or Curnig for Strawbridge & Clothier.

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GAYETY 8TH BELOW VINE ST. TONIGHT TONIGHT Joe Mace vs. Joe Quigley And Amateurs

Runs Scored in a Week by Major League Clubs

RUNS scored by all teams in American and National Leagues from Friday, August 4, to Thursday, August 10, inclusive. Only runs that figure in official averages are included. Scores of incomplete games are not counted, but the scores of games of five innings or more are included in the table:

AMERICAN LEAGUE									
Club	T	F	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
Cleveland	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
St. Louis	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Chicago	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Boston	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Philadelphia	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
New York	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Washington	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10

Tigers Sign Catcher Koehler

GETTSBURG, Pa., Aug. 11.—Archie Koehler, the star catcher of the Blue Ridge League, and one of the consistent players of the American League team, signed by the Detroit Tigers following the local team for several weeks. Koehler, who played for the Detroit Tigers in 1915, was just after today's game with Frankville. Koehler's home is at Stiles, Ill.

SEVEN RACES ON DULUTH REGATTA PROGRAM TODAY

Crowd of 25,000 Lines Course as National Rowing Meet Gets Started

168 OARSMEN ARE LISTED

DULUTH, Minn., Aug. 11.—The fourth annual rowing regatta of the National Amateur Association opened here today with 168 oarsmen in attendance. This represented the class of rowing talent from the North, East, Middle West and Far South. The weather is fair, with a cool breeze, and the temperature is around 60. More than 25,000 persons are lining the course.

Races today are: Quarter-mile double, intermediate singles, senior doubles, senior fours, association singles and intermediate eight.

Saturday's program follows: Senior international four, championship singles, intermediate doubles, intermediate fours, senior quadruple sculls, senior eight.

The Philadelphia oarsmen had a splendid night's sleep and were out early yesterday for a long row. They took things easy, however, and were back for a hearty breakfast at training quarters at the Duluth Boat Club.

Kelly's shell has been repaired and he used it Wednesday. Schmitz and Johnson, Undine entries, spent much of the time rigging their shells at an accurate balance of sweep. The Undines were out for a short trip in the afternoon.

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EVENING LEDGER MOVIES—IT'S A QUEER COINCIDENCE, NORMIE, HE CAN NEITHER KNOCK NOR BOOST THE BALL OVER THE FENCE

WELL SYMON, I MUST SAY I'M DISGUSTED WITH MIQUE MUJAZZ THE BALL-PLAYER.

ALL HE DOES IS KNOCK, KNOCK, KNOCK!

HE KNOCKS YOU.

HE KNOCKS ME.

AND HE KNOCKS EVERYBODY HE SEES.

THE ONLY TIME HE DOESN'T DO ANY KNOCKING

IS WHEN HE IS AT BAT!!!

YOU STRIKE OUT KID!

HM-M-M-M?

WE SHOULD BE KNOCKED FOR THIS!